

I live in an area that would be affected by the identification of hazardous materials on railroad tankers. My local volunteer fire department is one of the premier hazardous materials responders in the country. They are the first responders for Dupont Dow Elastomers, Borden Chemical, American Synthetic and many others in one location. Rail cars come through the area constantly. If the rail cars are not labeled it would be most difficult for emergency responders to know how to prepare. Police, fire, and emergency crews need to have this information before arriving at the scene. Those calling in the emergency could help by reading the information on the rail cars to those responding. If there is nothing indicating what is in the tankers, more time would be lost in identification, and would result in more danger to responders and residents.

It seems that terrorists have their own information network and know these things before most of us do. I know that the theory is that if the tankers are not labeled they cannot spot them. However, their plans don't seem to be spur of the moment, but well planned and thought out. I believe that removing the identification tags from the tankers would put the American public and emergency responders at more risk.